

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /063 W

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R 061756Z OCT 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2054

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELINSKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GR, FR, EEC

SUBJECT: ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: ECB 9482

1. DESPITE LINGERING PROBLEMS ABOUT ITS AUTONOMY, THE GENERAL CONFIERATION OF GREEK WORKERS (GSEE) HAS BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC). MATHIAS HINTERSCHIED, ETUC GENERAL SECRETARY , SAYS THIS WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION TAKEN BY THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS OCTOBER 1 MEETING IN GENEVA.

2. THE CECISION WAS NOT UNANIMOUS, BUT NEARLY SO.

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DURING A LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON THE AFFILIATION

REQUEST FROM THE GSEE, LEADERS OF SOME AFFILIATES OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL) ARGUED THAT SINCE THE GSEE RECEIVES FUNDS FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, IT IS NOT INDEPENDENT AND THEREFORE NOT FIT FOR ETUC MEMBERSHIP. IN THE END, ONLY THE CHRISTIAN UNION OF SWITZERLAND VOTED AGAINST THE GSEE AFFILIATION WHILE THE CFDT OF FRANCE, THE CSC OF BELGIUM, AND THE WCL UNIT IN LUXEMBOURG ABSTAINED;

3. THE VIEW OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, WAS THAT " THE BEST METHOD TO HELP OUR GREEK TRADE UNION BROTHERS WITH THEIR PROBLEMS WAS TO TAKE THEM INTO OUR RANKS," ACCORDING TO HINTERSCHIED. "WE CAN PUT MORE PRESSURE ON THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE THE GSEE'S INDEPENDENCE IF IT IS INSIDE THE ETUC THAN IF IT REMAINS OUTSIDE," HINTERSCHIED SAID.

4. ANOTHER AFFILIATION REQUEST THAT CAME UP AT THE ETUC SESSIONS WAS THAT OF THE FRENCH CGT. THE COMMITTEE APPROVED A HINTERSCHIED PAPER THAT WILL SERVE AS A "BASIS FOR DISCUSSION" WITH THE CGT, AND NAMED A FIVE -MAN DELEGATION TO MEET WITH CGT REPRESENTATIVES. THE ETUC GROUP WILL BE HEADED BY ITS PRESIDENT, HEINZ VETTER OF GERMANY, PLUS THREE OF ITS VICE PRESIDENTS (DEBUNNE OF BELGIUM, STORTI OF ITALY, AND SPIT OF THE NETHERLANDS) AND HINTERSCHIED.

5. ALTHOUGH THE TEXT OF THE HINTERSCHIED PAPER HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED, HE SAID THAT IT POSES SOME "HARD QUESTIONS", INCLUDING "WHETHER THE CGT WOULD BE WILLING TO GUARANTEE ACCEPTANCE OF MAJORITY DECISIONS OF THE ETUC," ESPECIALLY ON POLICIES THAT CONFLICT WITH THOSE OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (WFTU).

6. THE ABOVE REPRESENTS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POINTS MADE BY HINTERSCHIED AND ETUC SECRETARIAT COLLEAGUES IN A BRIEFING FOR A GROUP OF BRUSSELS LABOR ATTACHES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OCTOBER 6. OTHER ETUC DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU09818
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760377-1049
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761078/aaaacpky.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <02 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
TAGS: ELAB, GR, FR, EEC, GSEE, ETUC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006